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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-04 COME-00

NSC-05 SS-15 MC-01 H-01 DRC-01 ISO-00 /060 W
---------- 048986
R 181634Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4586
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5132

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, NL
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT
QUESTIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 4792

1. THIS MESSAGE IS FIRST OF SERIES EMBASSY PROPOSES TO SEND SUMMARIZING AND COMMENTING ON DUTCH PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT QUESTIONS. MORE DETAILED MATERIAL WILL BE AIRMAILED REGULARLY TO EUR/WE (BEIGEL).

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO UTILITY OF SUCH MESSAGES, INCLUDING WHETHER COVERAGE IS MORE OR LESS THAN NEEDED.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OCTOBER 17 AND 18:
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SINCE STORY BROKE REGARDING ALLEGED BRIBERY OF DUTCH

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PARLIAMENTARIANS TO INFLUENCE SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT, PRESS HAS CONCENTRAGED ON THIS TO EXCLUSION OF OTHER ASPECTS AIRCRAFT STORY. ALL PAPERS CARRY STORIES REGARDING KEJA'S AND DANKERT'S CHARGES AGAINST DASSAULT. DANKERT'S ALLEGATION THAT HE WAS OFFERED 1 1/2 MILLION GUILDERS BY DASSAULT HAS STIRRED GREAT INTEREST.

4. ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD AND PRESTIGIOUS NRC HANDELSBLAD (BOTH INDEPENDENT) SEE AFFAIR AS DAMAGING REPUTATION OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT. DAGBLAD ASKS WHY DANKERT DID NOT COME FORWARD SOONER AND WHY HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO DATE HAVE NOT BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING. HET VRIJE VOLK (LEFTIST) SAYS FRENCH ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO PORTRAY CHARGES AS CONSPIRACY AGAINST THEM BY DENYING CATEGORICALLY THAT THEY MADE BRIBE ATTEMPTS AND BY SPREADING STORIES ABOUT US COMPETITORS.

5. DANKERT AND PIERRE FRANCOIS, DASSAULT SECRETARY GENERAL, STUCK TO THEIR STORIES DURING TELEVISED INTERVIEW OCT 17. FRANCOIS DENIED BRIBES HAD BEEN MADE, OR THAT HE KNEW KEJA, AND SAID DANKERT HAD ALL ALONG FAVORED EUROPEAN PLANE, THUS NO NEED FOR BRIBE. DANKERT SAID "AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO BUY MY INTEGRITY FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION GUILDERS," AND THAT BRIBES WERE NOT UNCOMMON IN AIRCRAFT BUSINESS: "NORTHROP IS NO DIFFERENT AND SAAB IS THE SAME". PRESS ALSO REPORTS DASSAULT DENIAL THAT FORMER PROTESTANT MEMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT, KIKKERT, IS IN ITS EMPLOY. KIKKERT, A DEFENESE SPECIALIST WHILE IN PARLIAMENT, SAYS HE HAS BEEN SO FOR OVER A YEAR. TANGUY

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